

515 The President's News Conference of  
*November 20, 1962*

THE PRESIDENT. I have several statements.

[1.] I have today been informed by Chairman Khrushchev that all of the IL-28 bombers now in Cuba will be withdrawn in 30 days. He also agrees that these planes can be observed and counted as they leave. In-

asmuch as this goes a long way towards reducing the danger which faced this hemisphere 4 weeks ago, I have this afternoon instructed the Secretary of Defense to lift our naval quarantine.

In view of this action, I want to take this

opportunity to bring the American people up to date on the Cuban crisis and to review the progress made thus far in fulfilling the understandings between Soviet Chairman Khrushchev and myself as set forth in our letters of October 27 and 28. Chairman Khrushchev, it will be recalled, agreed to remove from Cuba all weapons systems capable of offensive use, to halt the further introduction of such weapons into Cuba, and to permit appropriate United Nations observation and supervision to insure the carrying out and continuation of these commitments. We on our part agreed that once these adequate arrangements for verification had been established we would remove our naval quarantine and give assurances against an invasion of Cuba.

The evidence to date indicates that all known offensive missile sites in Cuba have been dismantled. The missiles and their associated equipment have been loaded on Soviet ships. And our inspection at sea of these departing ships has confirmed that the number of missiles reported by the Soviet Union as having been brought into Cuba, which closely corresponded to our own information, has now been removed. In addition, the Soviet Government has stated that all nuclear weapons have been withdrawn from Cuba and no offensive weapons will be re-introduced.

Nevertheless, important parts of the understanding of October 27th and 28th remain to be carried out. The Cuban Government has not yet permitted the United Nations to verify whether all offensive weapons have been removed, and no lasting safeguards have yet been established against the future introduction of offensive weapons back into Cuba.

Consequently, if the Western Hemisphere is to continue to be protected against offensive weapons, this Government has no choice but to pursue its own means of checking on military activities in Cuba. The importance of our continued vigilance is underlined by our identification in recent days of a number of Soviet ground combat units in Cuba, al-

though we are informed that these and other Soviet units were associated with the protection of offensive weapons systems, and will also be withdrawn in due course.

I repeat, we would like nothing better than adequate international arrangements for the task of inspection and verification in Cuba, and we are prepared to continue our efforts to achieve such arrangements. Until that is done, difficult problems remain. As for our part, if all offensive weapons systems are removed from Cuba and kept out of the hemisphere in the future, under adequate verification and safeguards, and if Cuba is not used for the export of aggressive Communist purposes, there will be peace in the Caribbean. And as I said in September, "we shall neither initiate nor permit aggression in this hemisphere."

We will not, of course, abandon the political, economic, and other efforts of this hemisphere to halt subversion from Cuba nor our purpose and hope that the Cuban people shall some day be truly free. But these policies are very different from any intent to launch a military invasion of the island.

In short, the record of recent weeks shows real progress and we are hopeful that further progress can be made. The completion of the commitment on both sides and the achievement of a peaceful solution to the Cuban crisis might well open the door to the solution of other outstanding problems.

May I add this final thought in this week of Thanksgiving: there is much for which we can be grateful as we look back to where we stood only 4 weeks ago—the unity of this hemisphere, the support of our allies, and the calm determination of the American people. These qualities may be tested many more times in this decade, but we have increased reason to be confident that those qualities will continue to serve the cause of freedom with distinction in the years to come.

[20] Secondly, I would also like to announce that I have today signed an Executive Order directing Federal departments

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Executive Order 11651, April 19, 1962

and agencies to take every proper and legal action to prevent discrimination in the sale or lease of housing facilities owned or operated by the Federal Government; housing constructed or sold as a result of loans or grants to be made by the Federal Government or by loans to be insured or guaranteed by the Federal Government; and housing to be made available through the development or redevelopment of property under Federal slum clearance or urban renewal programs.

With regard to existing housing facilities constructed or purchased as a result of direct loans or grants from the Federal Government, or under Federal guarantees, or as a result of the urban renewal program, I have directed the Housing Agency and other appropriate agencies to use their good offices to promote and encourage the abandonment of discriminatory practices that may now exist.

In order to assist the departments and agencies in implementing this policy, and to coordinate their efforts, I have established the President's Committee on Equal Opportunity in Housing. It is neither proper nor equitable that Americans should be denied the benefits of housing owned by the Federal Government or financed through the Federal assistance on the basis of their race, color, creed, or national origin.

Our national policy is equal opportunity for all and the Federal Government will continue to take such legal and proper steps as it may to achieve the realization of this goal.

[3.] And finally, over the last weekend, the Chinese have made great advances in northeastern India. Now they have offered some kind of cease-fire proposal and we are in touch with the Indian Government to determine their assessment of it. In order to better assess Indian needs, we are sending a team to New Delhi, headed by Assistant Secretary Averell Harriman, including Assistant Secretary of Defense Paul Nitze and other representatives of the Defense Department and State Department. It will leave tomorrow.

In providing military assistance to India, we are mindful of our alliance with Pakistan. All of our aid to India is for the purpose of defeating Chinese Communist subversion. Chinese incursions into the subcontinent are a threat to Pakistan as well as India, and both have a common interest in opposing it.

We have urged this point in both governments. Our help to India in no way diminishes or qualifies our commitment to Pakistan and we have made this clear to both governments as well.

[4.] Q. Mr. President, with respect to your no-invasion pledge, there has been considerable discussion and speculation in the press as to the exact scope of this pledge. I believe that Chairman Khrushchev, in his letter of the 28th, made the assumption, or the implication, or the statement, that no attack would be made on Castro, not only by the United States, but any other country in the Western Hemisphere. It appeared to be an implication that possibly you would be willing to guarantee Castro against any and all enemies anywhere. Now I realize that in your letter there was nothing of that sort and you've touched on this today, but I'm wondering if you can be a bit more specific on the scope of your no-invasion pledge.

THE PRESIDENT. I think that today's statement describes very clearly what the policy is of the Government in regard to no-invasion. I think if you re-read the statement you will see the position of the Government on that matter.

Q. Mr. President, in speaking of "adequate verification," does this mean that we insist upon onsite inspection? Would we be satisfied with anything less than actual, on-the-spot inspection in Cuba?

THE PRESIDENT. Well, we have thought that to provide adequate inspection, it should be onsite. As you know, Mr. Castro has not agreed to that, so we have had to use our own resources to implement the decision of the Organization of American States that the

hemisphere should continue to keep itself informed about the development of weapons systems in Cuba.

[5.] Q. Mr. President, in connection with your statement on India, would you say if you foresee any need for direct U.S. participation in the border difficulties there in the way of manpower? Will we have to send troops there?

THE PRESIDENT. There's been no indication of that. I think we can get a more precise idea of what the Indians need to protect their territorial integrity when Governor Harriman returns, and also, I understand a similar mission may be being sent from London. And I think by the end of the week we ought to have a clearer idea of what the cease-fire offer means, what the military pressures are in India, and what assistance they would like to receive from us, but as of today I've heard nothing about American troops being requested.

Q. Does that include trainers and advisers?

THE PRESIDENT. No, I think—we can't tell precisely what the Indians require, and that's why this mission is going tomorrow, composed of representatives of State and Defense.

[6.] Q. Mr. President, apparently you've established quite a free-flowing channel of communications with Chairman Khrushchev. I wonder if you could comment any on this, perhaps telling us how many messages you've exchanged, some of the tenor of those, and if this will be a pattern for the future?

THE PRESIDENT. We've exchanged several messages in an attempt to try to work out the details of the withdrawal of the IL-28's and also a system of verification, in an attempt to fill in, in detail, the assurances given in the letters of late October. So that's what the correspondence has been about.

I think that's been very clearly stated. And as I say, today's message was received several hours ago, indicating that the IL-28's would be taken out. The main burden of

the negotiation, however, has been borne by Mr. McCloy and Governor Stevenson in their conversations, but I have continued to indicate how we defined offensive weapons, which has been the subject of this correspondence and, really, the subject of the negotiations between Mr. McCloy and Mr. Stevenson on the one hand, and the Russians on the other.

In addition, the question of adequate verification has been a subject of the correspondence and a subject of the negotiations.

Q. Mr. President, in the various exchanges of the past 3 weeks, either between yourself and Chairman Khrushchev or at the United Nations, have any issues been touched on besides that of Cuba, and could you say how the events of these past 3 weeks might affect such an issue as Berlin or disarmament or nuclear testing?

THE PRESIDENT. No. I instructed the negotiators to confine themselves to the matter of Cuba completely and therefore no other matters were discussed. Disarmament, any matters affecting Western Europe, relations between the Warsaw pact countries and NATO, all the rest—none of these matters was to be in any way referred to or negotiated about until we had made progress and come to some sort of a solution on Cuba. So that has been all we have done diplomatically with the Soviet Union in the last month.

Now, if we're successful in Cuba, as I said, we would be hopeful that some of the other areas of tension could be relaxed. Obviously when you make progress in any area, then you have hopes that you can continue it. But up till now we have confined ourselves to Cuba, and we'll continue to do so until we feel the situation has reached a satisfactory state.

[7.] Q. Mr. President, your administration, like others, is being criticized for its handling of communism. The point is being made that reporters are being hampered in carrying out their role as the link between

Government and the American people, that we're not keeping the American people well informed, as a result of Government policies. LeRoy Collins, former Governor of Florida, now head of the National Association of Broadcasters, has accused both the Defense Department and the State Department of news suppression in the Cuban crisis. Would you care to comment on your general feeling about that, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT. Well, it is true that when we learned the matter on Tuesday morning until we made the announcement on the quarantine on Monday afternoon, that this matter was kept in the highest levels of Government. We didn't make any public statement about it. And I returned to Washington that Saturday morning because I had a campaign trip that was going to take until Sunday evening, and I had to come back, and we did not want to indicate to the Soviet Union or to Cuba or anyone else who might be our adversaries, the extent of our information until we had determined what our policy would be, and until we had consulted with our allies and members of OAS and NATO. So for those very good reasons, I believe, this matter was kept by the Government until Monday night. There is—at least one newspaper learned about some of the details on Sunday evening and did not print it for reasons of public interest.

I have no apologies for that. I don't think that there's any doubt it would have been a great mistake and possibly a disaster if this news had dribbled out when we were unsure of the extent of the Soviet buildup in Cuba, and when we were unsure of our response, and when we had not consulted with any of our allies, who might themselves have been involved in great difficulties as a result of our action.

During the week, then, from Monday till Sunday, when we received Mr. Khrushchev's first message about the withdrawal, we attempted to have the Government speak with one voice. There were obvious restraints on newspapermen. They were not

permitted, for example, to go to Guantanamo because obviously that might be an area which might be under attack.

Since that Sunday we have tried to, or at least intend to attempt to lift any restraints in the news. And I'm really—as a reader of a good many papers, it seems to me that the papers more or less reflected quite accurately the state of our negotiations with the Soviet Union.

They have, in a sense, been suspended because we've been arguing about this question of IL-28's, so there hasn't been any real progress that we could point to or any hard information that we could put out until today, which we're now doing.

Now, if the procedures which have been set up, which are really to protect the interest and security of the United States, are being used in a way inimical to the free flow of news, then we'll change those procedures.<sup>1</sup>

[8.] Q. Sir, in another area, could you give us your analysis of the election results and your analysis as to what effect this may have on your program in Congress next year?

THE PRESIDENT. Well, I think we'll probably be in a position somewhat comparable to what we were in for the last 2 years. We did better than we had hoped in the election, but we still did not pick up seats, and we lost and won a number of votes by very close margins, particularly in the House.

It really will depend on whether we can maintain a good deal of unity in the Democratic Party and also whether we receive some assistance from some Republicans. If the Republicans vote unanimously against us and we lose 40 odd Democrats—about one-

<sup>1</sup> Earlier, on October 24, the White House had released a memorandum to editors and radio and television news directors listing 12 categories of military information vital to the national security concerning which no further releases would be issued by the Department of Defense. The memorandum requested that during the tense international situation all news media exercise caution and discretion in the publication of such information which possibly might come into their possession from other sources.

fifth of our number—then we will have difficulty. If we get the kind of Republican support that we got at the beginning of last year in the rules fight, then we can put some of these important programs through. So I think we have to wait until they come back before we can make a judgment, and we may be about in the position we were in in the last 2 years.

[9.] Q. Mr. President, the people of Florida are hoping that you and your family will again spend Christmas with them. Can you tell us what your present plans are, sir?

THE PRESIDENT. My father and mother are going to Florida in December, and my wife and children hope to go there for Christmas, and if my situation here permits, I will go for Christmas. If the question is a result of some stories that the tourist business in Florida is off because of our difficulties, I hope it will not be too dangerous in Florida this year. [Laughter]

[10.] Q. Mr. President, with regard to your housing order, could you explain, first, why you've taken so long to sign the order; second, does it become effective tomorrow morning for loans and guarantees and everything, that quickly?

THE PRESIDENT. Yes, that's correct.

Q. And, third, what assessment have you made of the possible economic impact of it?

THE PRESIDENT. Well, I said that I would issue it at the time when I thought it was in the public interest, and now is the time.

Secondly, it will become effective immediately. Thirdly, I don't think that its immediate effect—there may be some adverse reaction, but I think that we will be able to proceed in the development of our housing industry, which is important to our economy. I know our builder the other day in part of New York said that he would be very much against the housing order because it would hurt his development, and he was reminded that there was a more stringent law in effect in New York at the time. So that I think some of the fears have been exaggerated. In any case, it's sound, public, constitutional policy and we've done it.

[11.] Q. Mr. President, another question on Cuba. Is it your position, sir, that you will issue a formal no-invasion pledge only after satisfactory arrangements have been made for verification and after adequate arrangements have been made to make sure that such weapons are not reintroduced once more?

THE PRESIDENT. Quite obviously, as I said in my statements, serious problems remain as to verification and reassurance, and, therefore, this matter of our negotiations really are not—have not been completed and until they're completed, of course, I suppose we're not going to be fully satisfied that there will be peace in the Caribbean.

In regard to my feelings about what remains to be done, and on the matter of invasion, I think my statement is the best expression of our views.

Q. Mr. President, what would we accept as a guarantee, as a safeguard against reintroduction? Can that be achieved by anything short of continuous aerial reconnaissance?

THE PRESIDENT. Well, I think that what we would like to have is the kind of inspection on the ground which would make any other means of obtaining information unnecessary.

Q. A continuing inspection after the settlement—

THE PRESIDENT. Inspection which would provide us with assurances that there are not on the island weapons capable of offensive action against the United States or neighboring countries and that they will not be reintroduced. Obviously, that is our goal. If we do not achieve that goal, then we have to use other resources to assure ourselves that weapons are not there, or that they're not being reintroduced.

[12.] Q. Mr. President, the other day Khrushchev stated that Communists could learn something even from capitalists, and he even had a few kind words to say about profit incentives. Do you read any great amount of significance into this?

THE PRESIDENT. No, I don't. No. Except human nature is the same on both sides.

fortunately, on both sides of the Iron Curtain, which is why I'm optimistic about the ultimate outcome of this struggle.

[13.] Q. Sir, would you please clear up for us our relationship with the United Nations? If we wanted to invade Cuba, if we wanted to take unilateral action in any way, could we do so without the approval of the United Nations?

THE PRESIDENT. Well, I don't think a question—you have to really give me a much more detailed hypothetical question before I could consider answering it, and even under those conditions it might not be wise. Obviously, the United States—let's use a hypothetical case, which is always better—the United States has the means as a sovereign power to defend itself. And of course exercises that power, has in the past, and would in the future. We would hope to exercise it in a way consistent with our treaty obligations, including the United Nations Charter. But we, of course, keep to ourselves and hold to ourselves under the United States Constitution and under the laws of international law, the right to defend our security. On our own, if necessary—though we, as I say, hope to always move in concert with our allies, but on our own if that situation was necessary to protect our survival or integrity or other vital interests.

[14.] Q. Mr. President, with regard to the information policies, much of the controversy has centered on two specific orders: there's the Sylvester directive at the Pentagon which is for policing the contacts of the press with individuals in the Pentagon. And there's another order by Manning in the State Department which deals with the same general area. There's been quite a lot of criticism where some of the veteran correspondents have contended that this could cut down on the contacts, the normal flow of news, and also could cut down on controversy. I wonder if you have thought in terms of revising this, modifying it, or changing it?

THE PRESIDENT. As I said, we would modify it or change it if it turned out that it has the result that you suggest. As it is, we are

tonight suggesting that there be lifted the 12 points that we made to the press in regard to voluntary restraints on the movement of troops and so on. That will be lifted tonight. There will be a change, I think, in the State Department policy directive, because the need there is somewhat different from what it is in the Defense Department. In the Defense Department we are dealing not only with the problem of movement of troops, but also with the question of the very sensitive intelligence, and the methods by which that intelligence is received, and I don't think that, as yet, it's been demonstrated that this has restricted the flow of essential news out of the Pentagon. Now if it does, we'll change it. But, I haven't been convinced of that as yet.

[15.] Q. Mr. President, Brazil has urged that a ban be declared on nuclear arms and delivery vehicles not only in Cuba, but in the rest of South America. Do you support this proposal and would you favor extending a similar ban on other areas, such as the Middle East, where Senator Javits has said that the continuing buildup of Soviet arms in Egypt, Syria, and other Arab states may provoke the next East-West crisis?

THE PRESIDENT. Well, we're interested in the Brazilian proposal, which is under discussion at the United Nations. We're interested in it, and a similar proposal has been made for Africa. We would be interested in that, too.

The question comes down to the willingness of the countries of Latin America to accept the Brazilian proposal, and the development of an adequate inspection system. That's the issue.

[16.] Q. Mr. President, how do you feel about the appearance of Alger Hiss on a television program on the career of Richard Nixon?

THE PRESIDENT. I didn't see the program, but I thought Mr. Hagerty and Mr. Minow expressed a view with which I'm in sympathy.

[17.] Q. Mr. President, are you going to ask Congress for a \$50 billion income tax cut

in January, as recommended by your Labor-Management Policy Committee?

THE PRESIDENT. The question of the tax cut is going to be discussed in the administration in the next 10 days, and we'll have recommendations to make the first part of January. Until then, I'll have to withhold, until we finally decide what we are going to do—the amounts, and where the cut will come.

[18.] Q. Mr. President, would you give us your estimate as to the current relations between Communist China and Communist Russia, particularly in relationship to the events in Cuba and in Iran.

THE PRESIDENT. No, I don't think that any comment that I might make would necessarily be accurate, because there's a variety of opinions in regard to the matters which may be in dispute. And in addition I think that it's a matter which we should study. There're no assurances that it means it is helpful to us or harmful, as yet, but I think we have to wait. I said the other day that I thought this was a rather climactic period, and I think that we can perhaps tell in the next months what is going on in the world beyond this hemisphere with more precision. As of tonight it would be just estimates, and I think it would be a mistake to indulge those right now.

[19.] Q. Mr. President, you said you will change this procedure at the Defense Department when it's been demonstrated that the present is too restrictive—

THE PRESIDENT. That the public interest isn't being met, that's correct.

Q. How are you going to find out? The present situation is that the officers and other down there are reluctant to have any contacts with newspapermen because of not only the time they spend with the newspapermen, but the time in writing of the reports.

THE PRESIDENT. Well, I'll bring that to Mr. Sylvester's attention, but I do—I'm not sure that we're suggesting that—in the first place, this rule has been in effect in the DOD for many years. Are we suggesting that any member of the Defense Department should

speak on any subject to any newspaperman and the newspaperman should print it or not print it as he sees fit without any effort to attempt to limit the printing of news which may deal with the collection or the methods of collection of intelligence information?

Q. No, sir. It was just a question of—there are many areas other than the movement of troops and so forth.

THE PRESIDENT. And intelligence. And in those areas which are not involved there, I would be delighted to talk to Mr. Sylvester and with representatives of the press and see if we can get this straightened out so that there is a free flow of news to which the press is entitled, and which I think ought to be in the press, and on which any administration really must depend as a check to its own actions.

So I can assure you that our only interest has been, first, during this period of crisis and over a longer period to try to—not to have coming out of the Pentagon information which is highly sensitive, particularly in the intelligence areas, which I can assure you in my own not too distant experience has been extremely inimical to the interests of the United States. Now that's our only interest.

Beyond that, I think it ought to pour out. And as far as I'm concerned, I'll be glad to discuss with Mr. Sylvester and Mr. Manning. Now, as I've said, Mr. Manning is going to attempt, now that we passed at least a phase of this crisis, he will, I think, attempt to improve his order and improve the flow of information.

I will say, as an example that information has not necessarily been cut off, is the fact that Governor Stevenson sent a message on his conversation with U Thant—reporter U Thant's 2-day visit to Cuba—it was finally distributed in the Department of State by a memo. But I believe the Secretary of State had seen it, it was on a wire, and one of the wire services had it come out, in a line similar to the quote from it, and it came out. Governor Stevenson was right. So that I think information has not been cut off.



if it isn't, we'll get it out, so I can assure you that we'll work on it.

Q. I mean in the area other than national security.

THE PRESIDENT. That is correct.

[20.] Q. Mr. President, when you speak of this as a climactic period, can you sketch in what you think some of the ultimate possibilities are?

THE PRESIDENT. No, I don't think we can, but I do think if 5 years ago we had looked at the world, I don't think we would have

made a judgment that it would have moved quite the way it has moved, that China and India would be involved in a very serious struggle which may lead to a full-scale war if it hasn't already, and that relations in many parts of the world would be as changing as they are.

I think this is a very climactic period.

Reporter: Thank you, Mr. President.

NOTE: President Kennedy's forty-fifth news conference was held in the State Department Auditorium at 6 o'clock on Tuesday evening, November 20, 1962.

**DRAFT FOLLOWS**

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JOINT PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT FOR PRESS CONFERENCE,

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1962

It has been over two weeks since I last reported to the American people on Cuba. Today I want to review on how far we have come -- and how far we have yet to go.

The understandings between Chairman Khrushchev and myself set forth in our letters of October 27 and 28 contained the following elements:

1. The Soviet Union would remove offensive weapons systems from Cuba.
2. This would be done under appropriate United Nations observation and supervision.
3. The Soviet Union would undertake, with suitable safeguards, to halt the further introduction of such weapons systems into Cuba.
4. Upon the establishment of adequate arrangements through the United Nations to ensure the carrying out and continuation of these commitments, the United States would remove the quarantine and give assurances against an invasion of Cuba.

As has previously been announced, there is evidence that all the known ICBM and IRBM sites in Cuba have been dismantled. Missiles and associated equipment were loaded on Soviet ships which have departed Cuba. These ships have, with the cooperation of the Soviet Union, been inspected at sea from United States naval vessels and it has been confirmed that the number of missiles reported by the Soviet Union as having been brought into Cuba, which closely corresponds to our own information, are, in fact, now on board Soviet ships.

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ships proceeding toward the Soviet Union.

Chairman Khrushchev has also now agreed that all of the IL-28 bombers in Cuba will be removed within the next \_\_\_\_\_ weeks. The Soviet Government has also stated that all nuclear weapons have been removed from Cuba. It has further stated that it will not reintroduce offensive weapons into Cuba.

This partial Soviet fulfillment of the understanding embodied in the exchanges between Chairman Khrushchev and myself is in itself of major importance, and accordingly I have given instructions to lift the quarantine which was imposed October 23.

However, what has been done thus far is short of complete fulfillment of the understanding. In the first place, the United Nations has not been put in a position where it could verify that all offensive weapons have actually been removed from Cuba. The Cuban Government has rejected proposals made by the Secretary General of the United Nations to establish arrangements for such verification.

In addition, the Cuban Government has also rejected safeguards against the future introduction into Cuba of offensive weapons.

That Government must, therefore, bear responsibility for thus far frustrating the achievement of a distinct step forward in preserving peace in the Hemisphere.

It is the intent of the United States Government that the basic conditions of the original agreement be fulfilled. It does not propose that there be any doubt that the threat of offensive weapons in Cuba has been and will

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continue to be removed, for, as I said on September 13, "this country will do whatever must be done to protect its own security and that of its allies."

I have, therefore, instructed the Secretary of Defense to continue such surveillance as is required in the absence of the other safeguards agreed upon between Chairman Khrushchev and myself. This is being done in conformity with the OAS Resolution of October 23.

In the absence of necessary safeguards, there is no occasion for formal assurances on the subject of invasion. But the fact is that we do not want to be forced to invade Cuba. As I said on September 13, "we shall neither initiate nor permit aggression in this Hemisphere." If offensive weapons systems are removed, and kept out of this Hemisphere in the future -- if there is no effort to export aggressive Communist purposes from Cuba -- and if there is no interference from Cuba with our own security, there will be peace in the Caribbean, and that is what this Government wants.

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**DRAFT FOLLOWS**

I want to take this opportunity to bring the American people up to date  
the progress made thus far in fulfilling  
on the Cuban crisis -- and to review /the understandings between Soviet  
Chairman Khrushchev and myself, as set forth in our letters of October 27 and  
28th.

-- Chairman Khrushchev, it will be recalled, agreed to remove from  
Cuba all weapons systems capable of offensive use; to halt the further introduc-  
tion of such weapons into Cuba; and to permit appropriate United Nations  
observation and supervision to ensure the carrying out and continuation of  
these commitments.

-- We on our part agreed that -- once these adequate arrangements for  
verification had been established -- we would remove our Naval quarantine and  
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The evidence to date indicates that all known offensive missile sites in  
Cuba have been dismantled -- the missiles and their associated equipment have  
been loaded on Soviet ships -- and our inspection at sea of these departing ships  
has confirmed that the number of missiles reported by the Soviet Union as having  
been brought into Cuba (which closely corresponded to our own information)  
has now been removed. In addition, the Soviet Government has stated that all  
nuclear weapons have been withdrawn from Cuba, and that no offensive weapons  
will be reintroduced.

~~Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 08-13-2013 pursuant to E.O. 13526~~  
6-13-88 (F88-441)  
by N. [illegible]

Furthermore, I have today received definite assurances from Chairman Khrushchev that all of the IL-28 bombers now in Cuba will be withdrawn within ~~the next~~<sup>an</sup> month. Inasmuch as this goes a long way toward reducing the danger which faced this Hemisphere 4 weeks ago, I have this afternoon instructed the Secretary of Defense to lift our naval quarantine.

Nevertheless, important parts of the understanding of October 27th and 28th still remain to be carried out. The Cuban Government has not yet permitted the United Nations to verify whether all offensive weapons have been removed. It is threatening to fire on unarmed American reconnaissance planes which are conducting aerial verification until adequate international arrangements can be made. And no lasting safeguards have yet been established against the future introduction of offensive weapons back into Cuba.

Consequently, if the Western Hemisphere is to continue to be safeguarded against offensive weapons, this Government has no choice but to continue its aerial surveillance of Cuba, and to enforce that surveillance with appropriate responses in case of armed attack.

But once adequate international verification has made certain that all offensive weapons have been removed -- once suitable safeguards exist to prevent the reintroduction of such weapons -- there would be no reason for this nation not to reaffirm its earlier pledge to "neither initiate nor permit aggression in this Hemisphere", and no reason for any nation to fear invasion. Naturally we have never wished to be forced to invade Cuba; nor will there be any such invasion while progress continues to be made. On the other hand,



this does not mean that we must abandon this Hemisphere's political, economic and other efforts to halt subversion or aggression from Cuba, or its hopes that the Cuban people will someday be truly free. But these policies are very different from any intent to launch a military invasion of the island, in the absence of any sudden alteration in the situation as was presented so clearly a month ago.

In short, the record of recent weeks shows real progress -- and we are hopeful that further progress can be made. The completion of the commitments on both sides, and the achievement of a peaceful solution to the Cuban crisis, might well open the door to further major breakthroughs -- on disarmament, Berlin and other issues -- and perhaps even to a whole new era in Soviet-American relations.

May I add this final thought: In this week of Thanksgiving, there is much for which we can be grateful, as we look back to where we stood only four weeks ago: the unity of this Hemisphere, the support of our allies, and the calm determination of the American people. These qualities may be tested many more times in this decade -- but we have increased reason to be confident that those qualities will always endure and prevail.

**DRAFT FOLLOWS**

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11/20/62

I want to take this opportunity to bring the American people up to date on the Cuban crisis -- and to review the state of progress in fulfillment of the understanding between Soviet Chairman Khrushchev and myself, as set forth in our letters of October 27th and 28th.

Chairman Khrushchev, it will be recalled, agreed to remove from Cuba all weapons systems capable of offensive use; to halt the further introduction of such weapons into Cuba; and to permit appropriate United Nations observation and supervision to ensure the carrying out and continuation of these commitments.

We on our part agreed that -- once these adequate arrangements for verification had been established -- we would remove our naval quarantine and give assurances against an invasion of Cuba.

The evidence to date indicates that all known offensive missile sites in Cuba have been dismantled -- the missiles and their associated equipment have been loaded on Soviet ships -- and our inspection at sea of these departing ships has confirmed that the number of missiles reported by the Soviet Union as having been brought into Cuba (which closely corresponded to our own information) has now been removed. In addition, the Soviet Government has stated that all nuclear weapons have been withdrawn from Cuba, and that no offensive weapons will be reintroduced.

~~Declassified~~ 10-12-88  
under provisions of E.O. 11652 (F88-641)  
by N. Harbo, et al. and approved by OLC/OSI

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Furthermore, I am happy to announce that today I have received definite assurance from Chairman Khrushchev that the IL-28 bombers which his government placed in Cuba will be entirely withdrawn within the next month. He also agrees that these planes can be observed and counted as they leave. I am glad to accept these assurances, and accordingly I have this afternoon instructed the Secretary of Defense to lift the naval quarantine of Cuba.

Thus we are making progress -- but I must also report that important parts of the understanding of October 27th and 28th still remain to be carried out.

The Cuban Government has not yet permitted the United Nations to verify whether all offensive weapons have been removed and is threatening to fire on unarmed American reconnaissance planes which are conducting aerial verification until adequate international arrangements can be made. Moreover, no lasting safeguards have yet been established against the future introduction of offensive weapons back into Cuba.

In the absence of better arrangements, the U. S. Government has no choice but to continue <sup>to rely on our resources for defense against</sup> ~~to carry out the necessary work~~ that a threat ~~to its vital interests~~ <sup>to its vital interests</sup> does not develop surveillance in Cuba. The purpose of this surveillance is to protect the hemisphere against offensive weapons systems. The world knows the absolutely critical role played by this surveillance in protecting

the peace of the Caribbean during October. So the surveillance will continue, and attempts to interfere with it will require appropriate response.

We would like nothing better than to see the task of inspection and verification in Cuba placed in the hands of the United Nations or some other appropriate international agency. Until that is done, and until there are adequate safeguards against reintroduction of offensive weapons, we shall not be able to give the formal assurances against invasion which are a part of the understanding of October 27th and 28th.

Yet the fact is that we do not wish to be forced to invade Cuba.

~~Certainly there will be no invasion while we continue to make progress in the removal of offensive weapons.~~

As I said back in September, "we shall neither initiate nor permit aggression in this hemisphere."

If all offensive weapons are removed from Cuba and kept out of the hemisphere in the future -- if adequate verification and safeguards permit confidence in this removal -- if necessary surveillance, in the meantime, is not interfered with, and if Cuba is not used for the export of aggressive Communist purposes, there can be peace in the Caribbean, and no one need fear an invasion.

We cannot, of course, abandon the political, economic and other efforts of this hemisphere to halt subversion from Cuba, nor can we give up our ~~hope and purpose~~ that the Cuban people shall some day be truly

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free. But these policies are very different from any intent to launch a military invasion of the island, and no such invasion will occur in the absence of a drastic alteration in the situation, such as was presented so clearly by the secret introduction of major offensive weapons during September and October.

In summary, the record of recent weeks shows real progress in the resolution of the crisis over offensive weapons in Cuba. We remain hopeful that further progress can be made. The completion of the commitments on both sides, and the achievement of a peaceful solution to this crisis, might well open the door to further major breakthroughs -- on disarmament, Berlin, and other issues -- and perhaps even to a whole new era in Soviet-American relations.

May I add this final thought: In this week of Thanksgiving, there is much for which we can be grateful as we look back to where we stood only four weeks ago: the unity of this hemisphere, the support of our allies, and the calm of the American people. It is always possible that these qualities may be tested again, but it is proper for us to take new courage and hope from what has been accomplished so far.

**DRAFT FOLLOWS**

November 20, 1962

The first three sentences of a statement to be made by President Kennedy at his Press Conference at 6:00 p.m. on November 20, 1962 and his handwritten revision thereon.



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*been informed by*

~~Further~~ etc, I have today received ~~definite assurances from~~

Chairman Khrushchev that all of the IL-28 bombers now in Cuba will be withdrawn within 30 days. He also agrees that these planes can be observed and counted as they leave. Inasmuch as this goes a long way toward reducing the danger which faced this Hemisphere 4 weeks ago, I have this afternoon instructed the Secretary of Defense to lift our naval quarantine.

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